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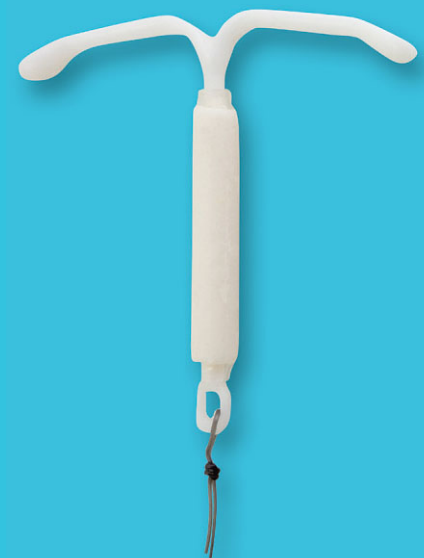


7 young
Minnesotans
talk about
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STUDENT
disorientation

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By CP Staff

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CITY PAGES ONLINE www.citypages.com

OFFICE HOURS Monday-Friday
8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

ISSN 0744-0456. City Pages is published weekly by Star Tribune Media Company, LLC. City Pages is located at 650 3rd Ave. S., Ste. 1300, Minneapolis, MN 55488. City Pages is available free of charge, limited to one copy per reader. Additional copies of the current issue may be purchased at the City Pages office for \$1, payable in advance. No person may, without prior written permission of City Pages, take more than one copy of each City Pages weekly issue. Subscriptions are available for \$100 per year. Subscription orders must include check or money order payable to City Pages, and should be mailed to City Pages Subscriptions, 650 3rd Ave. S., Ste. 1300, Minneapolis, MN 55488. Periodicals postage paid at Minneapolis, Minnesota. Postmaster: Send address changes to City Pages, 650 3rd Ave. S., Ste. 1300, Minneapolis, MN 55488.

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144,900

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Minnesotans experiencing homelessness per 100,000 residents in 2019, highest in the Midwest

"The mustache alone should be grounds for dismissal."

— Reader Angela Lakedon responds to "Bob Kroll says he won't retire... out of spite"

BRONZE AGE MINDFUCK

SEN. ROGER CHAMBERLAIN, R-Lino Lakes, is one of the most powerful politicians in the state. And one of the dumbest. The Senate Taxes Committee chair is an avid fan of the revolting theorist behind a book called *Bronze Age Mindset*, written under a pen name. (Passages refer to "master races," and the preference for a "military state" to a "grass hut village ruled by nusto mammies.") Chamberlain's taste was exposed by the Minnesota Reformer, which (here comes the stupid part) found he follows "many neoNazis and white supremacists," including one called @CottonMassa, which counts Roger among its 70 followers.

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SHUT OUT

North Minneapolis youth coaches frustrated by closed rec centers

Saturday morning at Northeast's Beltrami Park, a dozen grade school kids in bright blue jerseys ran drills on the basketball court under the watchful gaze of Pete Johnson. A sleepy thicket of tents spread across the northern end of the park. Parents watched from picnic tables on the sidelines. Johnson coaches with the North Area Basketball Academy (NABA), an organization that uses sports to give North Side kids the benefits of fresh air, teamwork, and positive social bonds.

This summer, he's got about 50 kids. And because they haven't had access to a designated indoor gym, they've been driving all over the city, searching for an open basketball court ahead of each practice.

"This summer it was a struggle with the timing, and you can't just go in and take over a park," says Johnson, also an assistant basketball coach at North High. "So my thing is, why isn't the plan being put into effect for kids to come into facilities for

the winter? You can't practice basketball in the wintertime outside here."

At last week's park board meeting, Johnson asked commissioners to come up with a solution for winter youth sports. There's currently no plan for reopening recreational centers for general use, though they're now housing a childcare program and teen nights. The Parade Ice Garden and Northeast Ice Arena are also open for adult and youth hockey.

Summer basketball programs have been running in the suburbs, Johnson says. "They're taking temperatures, having people entering one door, exiting another door. Let's do this in the city. You just have to be safe."

Johnson and other North Side youth sports coaches want the commissioners to understand that the lack of access to public park facilities—compounded by school closures and social distance learning—has been hitting their kids hard.

"They need structure, they need air, they need somebody to tell them, 'I love

you,' outside of the house," says Heritage Youth Sports Foundation's Coach Mike "Talley" Tate.

Parks Commissioner Londel French, chair of the Park Board's Recreation Committee, did not respond for comment. Neither did Kale Severson, who represents District 2 on the North Side.

At-large commissioner LaTrisha Vetaw says she empathizes with how frustrated the coaches feel when they see COVID contradictions throughout parks and rec: tents in close proximity, better access for suburban kids and more affluent sports.

"We should accommodate these kids," she says. "We're talking about all this violence and all these things going on in our city. They need sports. This is their outlet."

At Beltrami, longtime basketball academy volunteer Tanika Reese explains that for some North Side kids, sports are the cornerstone for other opportunities in life.

"What happens when youth don't have structured activities and opportunities



SUSAN DU

supervised by vested and interested adults?" she asks. "If they're going to allow the adults to go to bars, why can't they allow the kids to use the parks?"

Mia Johnson, a Minneapolis Police Department officer who played basketball for Michigan State, supervised her daughter's footwork from the sidelines.

"Finding a decent park that's open enough, where you can actually feel somewhat safe, it's been an uphill battle," she says. "But I want to stress to my daughter the importance of being active and knowing that if there's a will, there's a way." —SUSAN DU







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**7 young
Minnesotans
talk about
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I t's back to school time, and we all know what that means...

Well, actually, this year we don't know what that means at all. No one

does exactly, including college students, who've weathered a summer of uncertainty as educational institutions debated how to open campuses without becoming COVID-19 hot spots—and still don't have all the answers even as fall semesters get underway.

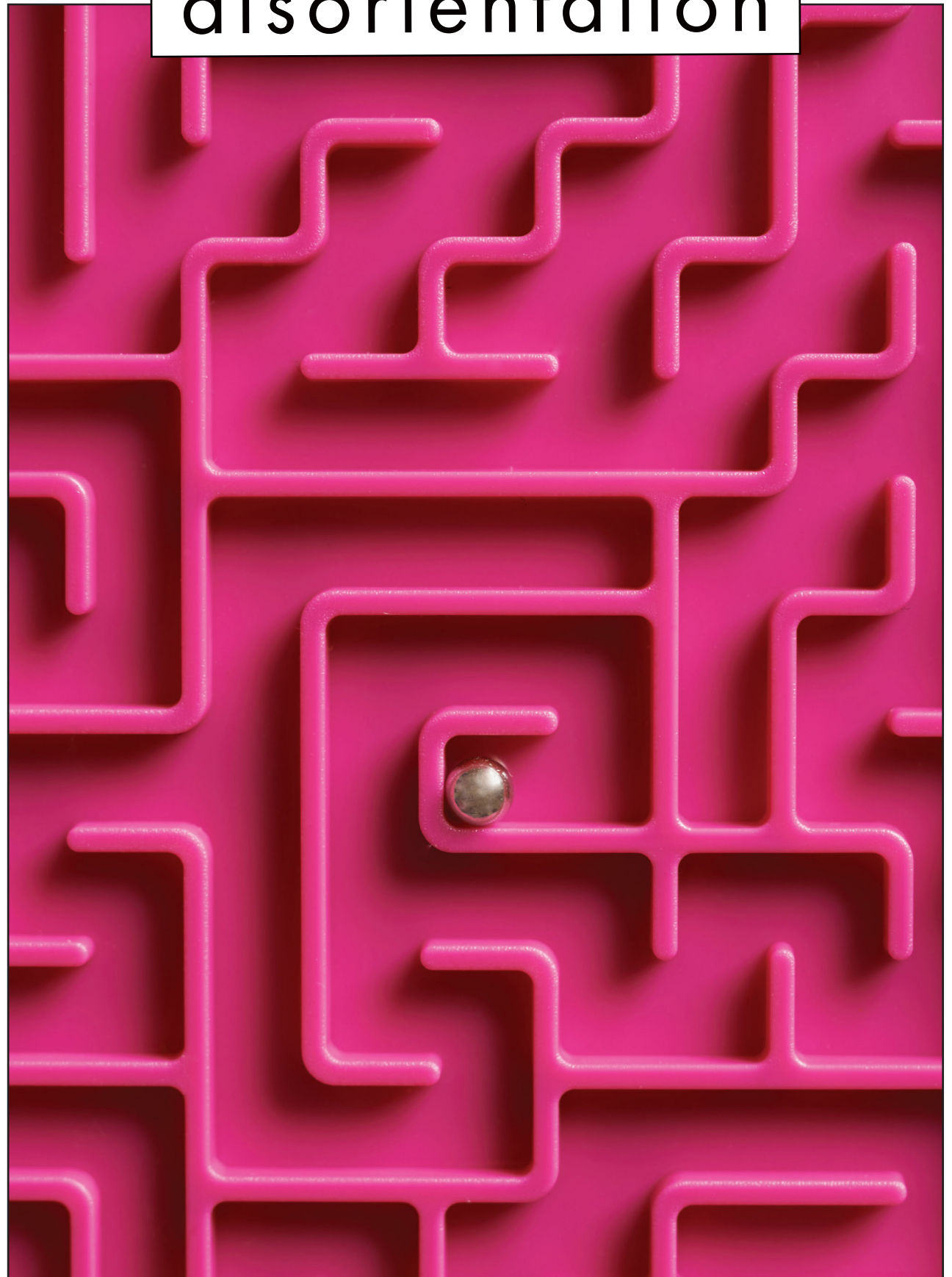
So what's it like to spend a time that's supposed to be about self-discovery and new beginnings worrying if you'll infect your classmates by standing too close to them and staring at your laptop as a professor tries to master Zoom? We spoke with seven young Minnesotans to find out. (And, to provide a little bonus context, we also found a professor who teaches about pandemics.)

The students come from different backgrounds and have different interests, but we heard some common sentiments. They're often frustrated with the online learning process and they miss their friends, but they'd rather be safe than sorry. Mostly what we found was a downright mature ability to roll with the punches and adjust to ever-changing and often-worsening conditions.

Then again, what choice do they—or any of us—have right now? —KEITH HARRIS

STUDENT

disorientation





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Yiğit Can Kahyaoglu

Macalester College

An international student's crisis

In the second week of August, Macalester “upended” its fall opening plan. Just three weeks before the start of the semester, the college drastically scaled back the populations who could return to campus, mainly limiting housing to first-year international students and transfer students.

“I guess overall how I’m feeling is like, it’s obviously a very stressful situation,” says Yiğit Can Kahyaoglu, ’22. “My classes are starting in a couple weeks, and still, there is a lot of uncertainty.”

The restrictions on returning don’t expressly affect Kahyaoglu, an international student from Turkey and opinion editor at the Mac Weekly—he was supposed to live off-campus this fall anyway. But they have caused issues for his friends, many of whom planned on living in Mac housing and were told they couldn’t less than a month before they needed to move in. “They already had bought plane tickets and made arrangements, and suddenly things just fell apart.”

Some people still intend to come back to campus. Many don’t. It’s hard to find housing this close to the start of the semester even if you’re not living on another

continent, and a lot of Kahyaoglu’s classmates and colleagues—especially those who are international students—decided it’s easier to just stay put.

“I think it was a good decision in the end,” Kahyaoglu says. “I just wish it was made sooner.” Classes moved online in mid-March, but then the hope was that things would calm down during

“I would say since March I’ve been second-guessing all the decisions I’ve made about this.”

the summer. They didn’t, of course: Just last week, the state recorded its highest single-day death total since June. Kahyaoglu wonders if maybe he should have returned home, too. “Since March I’ve been second-guessing all the decisions I’ve made about this.”

“Once a week, I would say, I just go into a kind of existential dread of: Did

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I make the right decision? Should I just go back home? Will it be safer there, or should I stay?"

Despite the decision coming so late, Kahyaoglu says he trusts the administration (and the school's new president, Suzanne Rivera). But he can't help but think of UNC Chapel Hill, which opened for in-person instruction, recorded 130 coronavirus cases in seven days, and quickly shut back down. And staffers and students have a responsibility, too—how will they mitigate social life? If they're

"It doesn't really feel real—it feels like doing summer classes online. I don't feel like I'm 'in college.'"

packing off-campus house parties every weekend, well, it's not like the administration can control that.

So KahyaoDlu will wait and see how things go during the first module this fall. He'd rather stay in Minnesota, but if the answer is "not so good," he'll consider heading home. Of course, there's no guarantee there either—things looked to be under control in Turkey about a month ago, which had him regretting his decision to stay in the U.S. The country just recorded its highest number of cases since June.

"That's the thing, right? I can't really know. Only time will tell, I guess."

—EMILY CASSEL

Tahlia Thomas

Normandale
Community College
Learning from home

When the fall semester at Normandale began this week, Tahlia Thomas found herself exactly where she was when she finished her senior year at Washburn last spring: at home, in south Minneapolis, at a desk in her room, online.

"If I want to stretch my legs I go down to the living room," she says of a typical school day. Welcome to the 2020 college experience.

Like many students, Thomas's initial encounter with distance learning began abruptly in March. "We went on spring break and then we just weren't allowed

COURTESY PHOTO



back in school," Thomas says, recalling the final months of her senior year. Needless to say, high school students who were already counting the days to graduation weren't exactly athirst for online classwork. "It gave a whole new meaning to 'senior slide,'" Thomas jokes.

Thomas, however, had already begun taking post-secondary courses online, which has made for almost too smooth a transition into her first college semester. "It doesn't really feel real—it feels like

doing summer classes online," she says. "I don't feel like I'm 'in college.'"

She plans to study engineering at Normandale—her interests lie in medical engineering, but she doesn't want to limit herself just yet. And that means for most of her classes, she'll be viewing pre-recorded lectures from her professors. "I feel like I'm teaching myself the material," she says. "They give you access to the course material and you're responsible for learning it on your own."

Still, she's ready to dive in after a long, uneventful summer. "I've had a lot of free time on my hands," she says. Thomas lost her job as a hostess at a local diner when the pandemic hit, and even ordinary summer vacation hangs with friends required special arrangements. "I think the most that I do with friends is taking social-distancing walks; we'll catch up every few weeks." At least they still had their hammocks. "We'd set up our mocks apart from each other—it's hard to hear

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each other sometimes with masks on, but it's nice to get out of the house."

That house is bustling these days, with two sisters starting high school next year and her father also working from home.

"There's a virtual option too, to watch it live... but online versus in person, it's just such a different feeling, to be surrounded by your community in church."

But Thomas is happy to be there and not have to risk her health. "I have friends who are still going away and they're living in dorms, and a lot of them have been expressing anxiety," she says. "Campuses

COURTESY PHOTO



Emma Eidsvoog

are doing what they can, I guess. I feel a lot safer at home, personally."

Now her summer has come and gone, and the 2020 grad looks at the semester ahead with the same perspective she did in June, waiting for the fact that she is, in fact, a college student now to settle in. "It's August and it still doesn't feel real." —KEITH HARRIS

Emma Eidsvoog

Bethel University

An evangelical student's perspective

Emma Eidsvoog spent three weeks in India last January with her fellow Bethel University journalism students. She met migrant workers and wrote about their lives, watching how they woke at 5 a.m. in tiny brick houses for a full day of manual labor, their families far away.

"Seeing how little they had, and yet their hospitality toward us, I just wanted to share their stories," Eidsvoog says.

Eidsvoog, 21, has come to love experiences that take her out of her comfort

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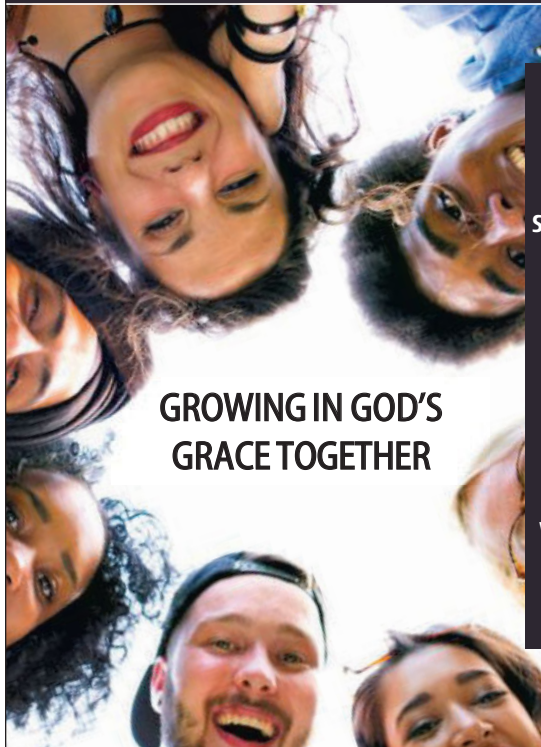
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zone. She grew up the second-oldest of 12 siblings (seven born to her parents, five adopted) in Milaca, about an hour north of the Twin Cities. When it was time for college, she applied only to Bethel, an evangelical Christian school where she planned to study psychology.

She took an interest in graphic design, then journalism, and joined the staff of the school newspaper, the Clarion. She was excited about her spring semester, which was just getting underway when her planned mission trip to Costa Rica over spring break was canceled. When the school announced students would get an extra week off, Eidsvoog and her mission-trip friends instead drove to Colorado, 13 hours each way, washing and wiping their hands at each stop.

"No one got sick, but in hindsight, that probably wasn't the best thing to do," she says.

When school restarted, classes had moved online, and Eidsvoog moved back to Milaca. The prospect of studying in her parents' basement didn't sound so bad. But online learning felt almost optional, and Eidsvoog procrastinated. She slept in. She busied herself with household chores, or helping younger siblings (also consigned to home-schooling) with homework instead of doing her own. Eidsvoog skipped Google hangouts in a class she needed, fell behind, and withdrew from it mid-semester.

She spent the summer interning with the Pioneer Press, mostly working remotely, and taking fishing trips with her boyfriend. "With social media overflowing, with everything going on, it was nice to be outside, watch a sunset, be around trees," she says.

This past weekend, Eidsvoog was reunited with three roommates on campus. She'll earn the majority of her 17 credits this semester online (only one class is employing the hybrid approach), and is still deciding how often she'll attend chapel, held three days a week.

Ellen Harth

"There's a virtual option too, to watch it live... but online versus in person, it's just such a different feeling, to be surrounded by your community in church."

Eidsvoog thinks journalists have covered the virus well, answering even questions that wouldn't occur to most people. She's discouraged to see consumers like her parents turning away from "liberal news" while her left-leaning friends do the same to conservative sources. Eidsvoog's budding education tells her not to rule out anything categorically.

In general, she thinks the stream of alarming news stories is "not healthy" for anyone involved, and wants to bring that philosophy into the Clarion's newsroom. "That's a concern of mine, only covering the negative—the outbreak, the fear, and not reassuring people, and encouraging, and covering positive things that are still happening." —MIKE MULLEN

Ellen Harth

University of Minnesota

*Studying agriculture
in the COVID era*

Students of animal science and agriculture often face a unique challenge: attending and preparing for classes while also working on a farm. The pandemic hasn't changed that.

"Ag students often have to come back to the farm and work; there are expectations with their family farms or the farms that they work at," says Ellen Harth, who will be starting her junior year this fall at the University of Minnesota. "Sometimes it gets really hard to balance the different activities you do as well as homework and having to go back to work."

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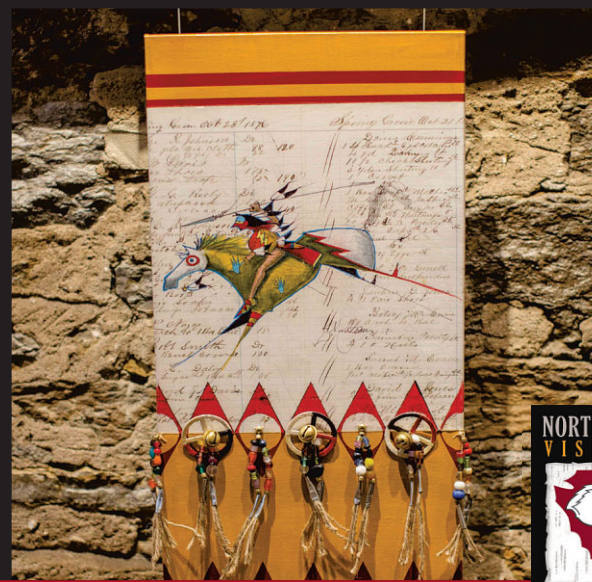
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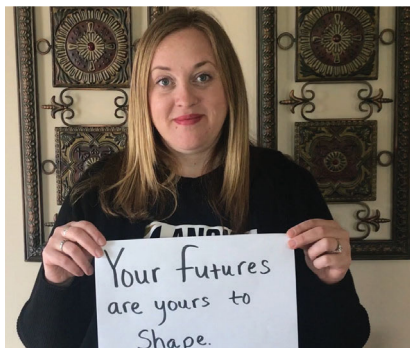
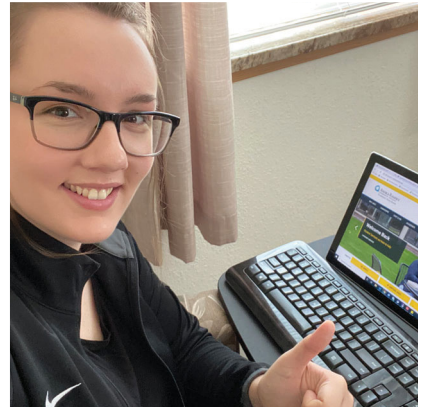
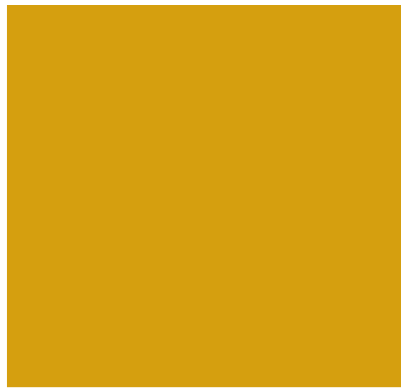
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Harth is studying agricultural communication, marketing, and animal science at the U. She grew up on a dairy farm near Hinckley, where her family had Holstein and Jersey cattle. So when the University of Minnesota canceled its in-person classes and moved things online in March, it wasn't necessarily the worst news for her.

"Last semester was actually the best semester for me. I got a 4.0 GPA and got on the dean's list for the first time," she says. "I really had more time to focus on my studies versus constantly running around and having all of these different responsibilities. When classes are online, you have more flexibility with your time."

This success, however, comes with a big downside. Like all of us, Harth is missing that human connection, and she worries how remote learning will affect new students.

"I am someone who really relies on

Emma Chekroun

my other classmates and friends. We like to study together, we like to go out together and have fun," she says. "Who knows how long this is going to go on."

As classes start up, the typical back-to-school whirlwind looks quite different. Instead of hitting up the bookstore, students must purchase materials online. There's no figuring out bus ride logistics, as Harth's classes have all gone virtual except for one—a lab.

Rush week at her sorority, Beta of Clovia, which typically entails major social meet-ups, will have to be completely reconfigured. Events put on by the Gopher Dairy Club and Block and Bridle are also up in the air.

"It's very unfortunate that this is impacting our studies and friendships and club activities," she says. "We won't



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get the opportunities to do them again.”

Last winter, Harth was crowned Pine County’s Dairy Princess, an honor that normally entails many social obligations. Instead, she’s put her marketing training to good use, posting cooking videos and reading books on social media. This summer, her internship at 4-H also had to move online. Still, given the current situation, she’s in no rush for things to go back to how they were.

“I’m kinda worried that once we go back to campus there’s gonna be an outbreak, because that has happened at other colleges across the United States,” she says. “I mean, we’re going to wear masks and do social distancing. But you can’t completely eliminate the risks.”

While Harth will continue with her studies this semester, she has other friends who are reconsidering their options.

“I have a really close friend who had planned on going to vet school... but she really felt like she didn’t want to spend that type of money on tuition and then not be able to be there in person, which I totally understand,” she says. “Ag kids, we don’t have a lot of money. We just put all of the money back into the farm. I just think it’s going to be a very difficult and expensive time to be a college student.”

—JESSICA ARMBRUSTER

“You have to approach this like a different beast. You can’t treat it like it’s all normal.”

Emma Chekroun

University of Minnesota

Keeping college radio alive

Not long after Emma Chekroun arrived at the University of Minnesota from Colorado (where she was raised, though she’s got family in International Falls), she saw a fellow student handing out Radio K stickers and learned that the station was looking for DJs.

A music fan who admits that “I wasn’t coordinated enough to play an instrument but I needed to figure out how to get involved,” Chekroun was hipped to music journalism, as so many people have been, by the movie *Almost Famous* (“I thought, ‘That’s something I could do’”), and college radio felt like a perfect fit. She started attending the station’s live

Off the Record in-studio sessions every week; last year, she became its host.

Now Chekroun’s the station’s music director, under conditions she could hardly have anticipated. In addition to the pandemic that has disrupted education for all students, Radio K has had to determine how to address the police killing of George Floyd, the widespread unrest that followed, and accusations of harassment and abuse in the Twin Cities music community.

And all from home.

Like so many places, Radio K studios shut down last spring. “It’s not entirely certain when we get to go back,” she says. “It’s all wait and see. We’re hoping and planning that there’s a safe way to DJ again.”

As a result, the station has expanded its online options. “This is a great opportunity to learn how to use digital plat-

forms and learn how to serve listeners,” Chekroun says. “No matter what happens, we’ll want to keep invested in this in the future, as a complement to what we do on air.”

Radio K isn’t just a radio station—it’s a student organization, so Chekroun is also focusing on how to integrate new DJs and volunteers when they can’t be in the same room. “I remember how intimidating it can be to come into an established club—let alone during a global pandemic,” she says. “We’ve always done a lot of stuff for incoming freshmen. So now we’re asking, ‘What will help them feel connected in this dumpster fire of a time?’”

Chekroun is also a student, and she’s been watching as her university and her professors adjust to distanced learning. “It highlights any pre-existing issues with inability to present information,” she’s noticed. “But really engaging teachers find a way to continue that into Zoom. You have to approach this like a different beast. You can’t treat it like it’s all normal.”

Whatever “normal” even means now. “When I was hosting *Off the Record* I thought, even if everything goes to crap I can at least say at one point in my life I did what I wanted to do,” Chekroun says. “And now that I’m music director I feel the same way.”

She continues, “I feel like I sound

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like I'm overtly trying to be positive, but we're still going, and radio stations are still going, and music is still going. It's refreshing to see how essential it is to people and how people will find a way to keep it working."—KEITH HARRIS

Daniel Galkowski

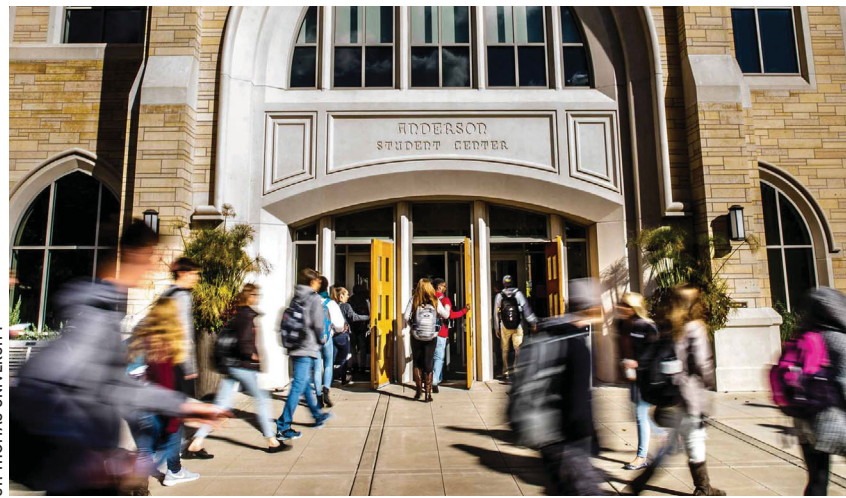
St. Thomas University

Missing a home away from home

After growing up in Rochester, Daniel Galkowski tried a semester at Marquette University before deciding it wasn't for him. He moved back to Minnesota and fell for St. Thomas, finding "another family" on a campus as pretty in deepest winter as it is in spring.

So he was sad to abandon it and move back in with his parents after the school moved to online classes in March. Galkowski kept his daily routine of lectures and homework, but it wasn't the same. A data analytics course, especially, was one where he would've liked to watch the professor walk through solutions and field questions in person.

"There's such a big social aspect to it, and you learn so much from peers, and asking questions, listening to people's



ST. THOMAS UNIVERSITY

thought process," he says. "I definitely missed out on a lot of learning."

Back in Rochester, Galkowski, 22, was strict about observing the state's stay-at-home order and social distancing guidelines. He'd meet with a handful of friends for spacious backyard bonfires, and has turned down invitations from those who were quick to return to bars as they reopened.

This fall, Galkowski will start on his last academic year toward a degree in operations and supply chain management. Some courses are fully online, while oth-

St. Thomas University

ers will be a hybrid, with some days in the classroom and others remote. Galkowski, citing short-lived returns to campus in places like North Carolina and Michigan, is pessimistic: "Some people have in-person classes, but I would assume they will not be in-person for very long."

After 15 years in classrooms, Galkowski can live with one last one online. He's more eager about working as a research assistant on projects studying supply

chains, a subject—and an industry—he thinks coronavirus has shaken for the next decade, and may "never be the same."

For the past two years, Galkowski has been president of the St. Thomas chapter of College Republicans, which counts 130 members. He's disappointed that the response to coronavirus, from social behavior and the effect on the economy to education policy, has been politicized. He thinks there's no easy, right answer to dealing with a pandemic, and thinks both sides of the political spectrum are "really struggling with it," and mean well.

How's that go over with his fellow Republicans? "I've never gotten bad feedback from saying that," Galkowski says. "I think that's something a lot of people lose, that they get so entrenched in their beliefs they don't even realize there is another viewpoint."

Galkowski would love to be paying \$9 per beer on nights at Target Field. While Zoom meet-ups have allowed him to connect with friends who scattered across the country, he'd love to be hitting up Twin Cities bars, but won't. It's not worth it.

"If it means I can visit my grandmother in her nursing home in May, I'm going to do my part. I don't have a problem looking at my actions during the pandemic through that lens." —MIKE MULLEN



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Lissa Horn

University of Pittsburgh
Taking a gap year

Lissa Horn started hunting for colleges during her junior year at Southwest High School in Minneapolis. After a long, uncertain process, she eventually visited the University of Pittsburgh and “absolutely fell in love” with the school.

“I thought I was going to go, and everything was going to be great,” the 2020 grad says. “Then March hit and... things took a turn.”

Multiple turns, actually.

Horn decided that renting a dorm at Pittsburgh and taking online classes didn’t make sense, especially while paying \$35K in out-of-state tuition for those limited resources. And her online learning experience this past spring wasn’t great, she reports, so she decided to hit pause on Pitt.

She’s not alone. Horn estimates about 60 percent of her classmates are opting to take gap years, either by choice or circumstance.

With a wide open year ahead of her, the avid backwoods camper lined up a dream college alternative with the National Outdoor Leadership, whose program

in New Zealand would mean months backpacking through the mountains and kayaking over the ocean.

Two weeks ago, that trip was canceled due to COVID-19.

“I was just really excited,” she says. “It was an opportunity for me to do something during my gap year to fill in the months.”

Still, Horn is managing to stay busy. She’s taking community college classes online, earning credits that will, someday, transfer to Pitt. She’s also working at Edina Country Club while living with a friend in a Dinkytown apartment, which sort of approximates an independent college experience. “We like to say we’re college students but we don’t take any classes,” Horn says with a laugh.

Horn’s friend group is taking coronavirus “pretty seriously,” with masks and social distancing. She’s not so sure about everyone in her age group, though.

“For other peers, they’re all arriving on college campuses and going to parties... it’s a ticking time bomb,” Horn says. “We’re waiting for them to come back home and campuses to be shut down.”

When (if?) normalcy returns to the University of Pittsburgh campus, Horn will be there, eager to begin studying international relations and enjoying college life. —JAY BOLLER

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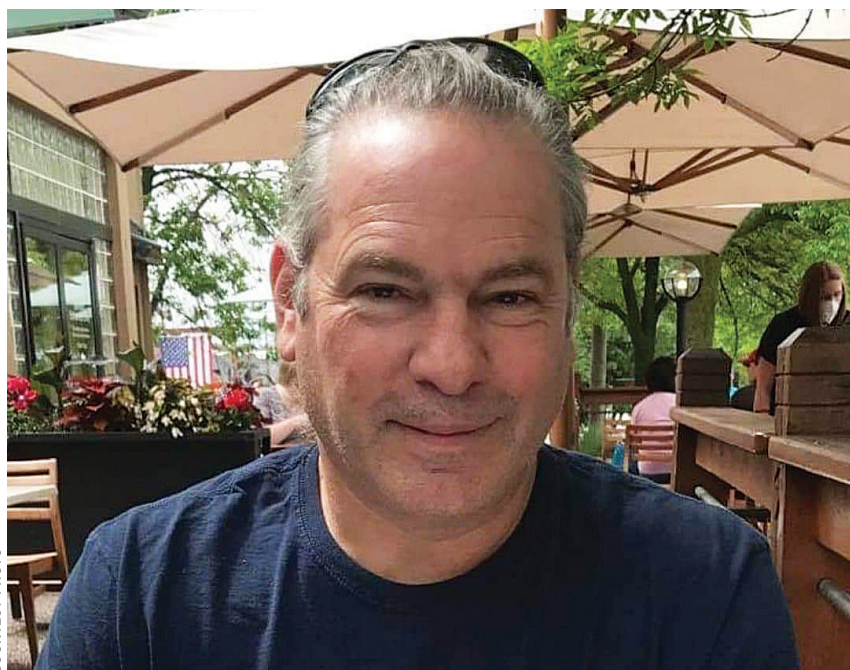
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Pandemic Academic

Dr. Ron Barrett's course on infectious disease couldn't be timelier

How do you teach a class called "Pandemic Infections" to a bunch of 18-year-olds in the midst of an actual pandemic?

According to Dr. Ron Barrett—a medical and cultural anthropologist whose specialty is the social aspects of infectious diseases, healing, and how humans come to terms with our mortality—pretty much the same as always.

"I've been teaching the course for about 17 years now," says Barrett, who taught at Emory and Stanford before joining Macalester College as an associate professor. (He spoke to City Pages in a personal capacity.)

Back in 1998, Barrett co-authored a paper on epidemiological transitions and emerging infectious diseases with then-colleague George Armelagos. That paper formed the foundation for Pandemic Infections: The Class.

"I taught the course as a first-year course seven or eight years ago, and what I found from that is students come in with a lot of interest and a lot of enthusiasm. They also come with a lot of presuppositions," he says.

"The temptation is when somebody throws something out at you, and you can quickly answer, it is to quickly answer it. But what happens is you set a precedent for people asking you a whole bunch of other questions, when the objective is to really get them to think."

From day one, Barrett makes it clear that he won't be his students' fact-checker. "We will examine facts about COVID, we will examine facts about infectious diseases," he explained.

"I'll tell them upfront, 'I'm not gonna answer your questions about COVID.' What I'm going to do is ask them to give me questions that they have, and then talk about how we go about answering those questions, because that's far more important," says the prof, who tracks epidemiological movements around the globe as part of his work.

"The point of the class is, that although infections like COVID-19 may be somewhat new, the human determinants of those infections are quite ancient and recurring," Barrett told us. "There are a lot of lessons that probably should be learned by the public that still haven't been."

So how does the professor, with his wealth of knowledge informing the present moment, endure the public and current policy? For Barrett, the hard part hasn't been designing all his classes so they can be online or in-person, switching back and forth depending on the circumstance.

"I am, I guess, frustrated by the inability of our leaders and the general public to learn lessons about pandemic infections that we should have learned a long time ago, and that we're still not fully learning now," he says. "The hard part is that, six months, seven months, whatever, into this thing, we're still not coming around and asking the right questions."

Want to learn more without enrolling at Mac? In 2013, after teaching Pandemic Infections at their separate campuses, Barrett and Armelagos co-authored *An Unnatural History of Emerging Infections*, structured after the course and paper that inspired it.—SARAH BRUMBLE



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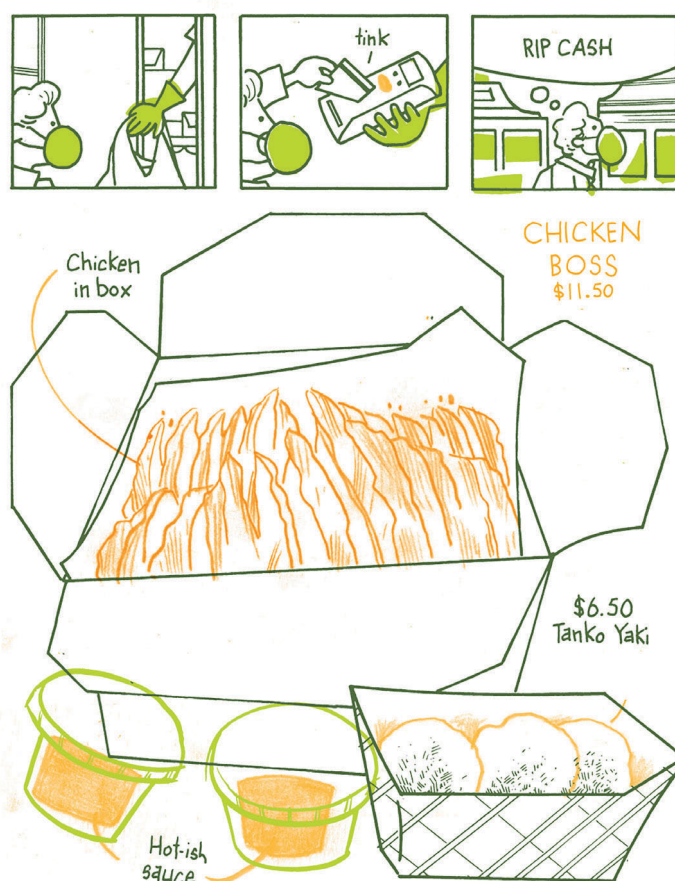
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NICOLLET'S FOOD AND FACES GO NATIONAL

Eat Street Diners Club creator Will Dinski wins big-time award

BY SARAH BRUMBLE

For the past eight years, comics artists have hoped to win one of Slate's Cartoonist Studio Prizes. They're a pretty big deal, these awards.

Each year, the Slate Book Review and the Center for Cartoon Studies, plus a pair of guest judges—this year Candida Rifkind, a comics scholar at the University of Winnipeg, and Dan Nott of the Schulz Library—comb through endless comics to find the year's two most talented winners.

And this year, Twin Cities artist Will Dinski, creator of *Eat Street Diners Club*, was awarded the Best Web Comic of 2020. His monthly series follows a group of friends as they dine their way up and down Minneapolis's "Eat Street" (aka Nicollet Avenue). As a prize, he received \$1,000 and "eternal glory" (their words).

Even for readers unfamiliar with the Twin

Cities or the multitude of dining options along Nicollet, the tenderness and attention Dinski pays to his subject is magnetic and charming. The episodes delicately navigate cultural and personal terrain alongside food we know and love. One installment might feature the characters dining and chatting at Pho Tau Bay, while the next will find them arguing over everything but which of Kmart's parking lot taco trucks is the best, before pivoting to social distancing outside Young Man farther down Nicollet.

Dinski tells City Pages that he has been making comics since grade school, has been sharing his work online since graduating college, and has since published a graphic novel (*Holy Hannah*).

Nonetheless, distributing *ESDC* through the digital blog-newsletter platform Substack makes sense for a few reasons. "As a cartoonist, you're expected to have work

online, but I also love to design handmade books," says the artist, who was also an MCBA Jerome Book Arts Fellow in 2013. He says he appreciates that by using this digital format, "the emailed comics can arrive on a Sunday morning, [which] reminds me of reading comics in the Sunday newspaper as a child."

Dinski was partly drawn to capture *Eat Street* after living in the area for so long, and seeing so many amazing restaurants come and go. "I'd always wanted to write about every restaurant on *Eat Street*," he says. "I haven't been making these comics for that long, really, and already there are five that have closed since making a comic about them."

Beyond showcasing the fleeting yet social world of restaurants, Dinski admits, "Also, food is endlessly entertaining to draw—as is the architecture of *Eat Street*."

Though dining culture has changed a bit due to the coronavirus, sustaining his inspirational spark hasn't been a problem, even if Dinski says he hasn't been inside a restaurant for a bit. Of his artistic process, the artist says he's "embraced that I get to draw more of *Eat Street* from the actual street," while *ESDC*'s friend group lovingly charts the approaches eateries have taken to serving their patrons during the pandemic.

Go to EatStreetDinersClub.com, where readers can start from the beginning of the web series and catch up to the present episode at Bambu, as the characters munch their way through some of the best, most recognizable food (and moments) in Minneapolis. You'll also find a link to sign up to get the latest comics sent right to your inbox.

Find all of Will Dinski's other comics and illustrations at willdinski.com. 



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FIND ♀ IN U





FACEBOOK

SOBERING VANDALISM

Guy blames booze for his mural defacement

BY HANNAH JONES

The intersection of 38th Street and Chicago Avenue in south Minneapolis became famous when Minneapolis Police Officer Derek Chauvin killed a man named George Floyd by kneeling on his neck, right outside of Cup Foods.

The area has been closed to traffic since then, and has become a memorial to Floyd and other people who lost their lives to police brutality. To replace

the haunting image of Chauvin with his knee on Floyd's windpipe, artists created a massive mural featuring Floyd's face, ringed in the blaze of a sunflower, surrounded by the names of other victims. It's become a national icon for the police reform movement that has arisen out of the ensuing protests.

The community has been keeping vigil over the site... and for good reason, as they saw on Tuesday, when somebody took

a can of spray paint to the mural, blacking out the eyes and X-ing out the face.

According to Facebook posts and reports about the incident, the vandal did not quite get away scot-free. Surveillance video from Cup Foods, also posted on social media, shows a person with a can of spray paint scrambling away, flip-flops discarded, as a bystander charges after him.

A Facebook post by Jeanette Doris-Marie Rupert identifies the pursuer as Billy Briggs (who is, as it happens, an occasional photographer for City Pages), who says he'd been lighting candles at the memorial when he saw a white guy in khaki shorts and a blue hoodie, "standing in front of Cup Foods and looking suspicious."

"Adrenaline kicked in and I ran towards

him yelling for security while giving chase," Briggs wrote in his own Facebook post on Wednesday. "Unfortunately I didn't make it very far because of my artificial hip. I did however run him outta his shoes!"

The Star Tribune reported Thursday that the police had not been called about the vandalism. But Marcia Howard, a teacher and community volunteer who lives nearby, told the Minnesota Reformer she'd also witnessed the incident, and saw a volunteer security guard chase the perpetrator down.

"When we find people or apprehend people even in the square, unlike the police we don't beat their ass," she explained to the Reformer. "What we do is we start asking them questions."

Howard said the vandal "gleefully" posed for a picture and they "let him go barefoot into the night." Community members have been sharing that photo on social media and demanding consequences. The can of spray paint, which had been discarded, was tossed into the trash for good measure.

The Reformer reached out to the man identified in the photo—a 26-year-old Rochester medical student named Daniel Michelson—and got a response from his father, Joel, who told them Daniel was "in a safe place" and "wants to do everything he can to make restitution."

In a subsequent interview with the Reformer, Daniel said he'd gotten drunk alone in his apartment and "didn't realize" what he was doing—and that he had no memory of the incident.

"This is definitely a turning point for me," he said. "I was absolutely disgusted because that's not at all representative of who I am or who I strive to be."

He said he's working with the surrounding community to figure out how to make up for this, and he'll pay for repairs to the mural and "anything else," even if it takes a while.

Howard, meanwhile, was skeptical about him being drunk and insensible.

"That motherfucker ran like he was Carl Lewis," she said.

This is far from the first mural of George Floyd to be vandalized. Others have been graffitied in Rochester, Long Beach, Stoneham, and Portland. [@](#)



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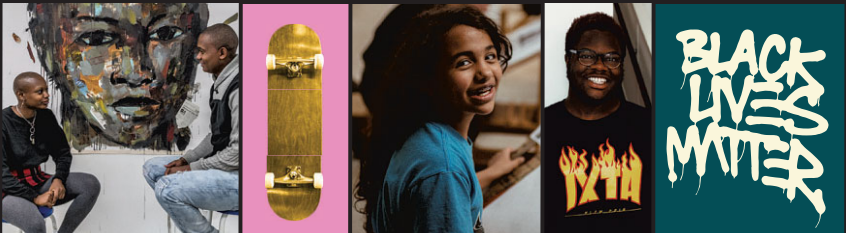
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BRANDON SWEENEY

What's the opposite of huzzah? That's the reaction we're expecting from die-hard Ren Fest fans.

Coronavirus has claimed another victim: the Minnesota Renaissance Festival. If you want to see some jousting, hear an olde English version of AWOLNATION's "Sail," or try your hand at archery while dressed as a pirate, you're gonna have to wait another year.

"We worked hard the last five months to develop a plan and mitigation measures which we firmly believe would have resulted in a safe and healthy Renaissance Festival," an announcement states on Facebook. "However, it is clear that the current State directives will not change significantly in

YE FAIR CORONAVIRUS

The plague forces Ren Fest to cancel

BY JESSICA ARMBRUSTER

time to allow the Festival to open this fall."

Event organizers were hopeful that they would be able to host the super popular, multi-week event by moving the start date back to September, but that strategy didn't pay off.

"Although we disagree with the current State directives that prevent a spacious outdoor venue from opening," the announcement continues, "we recognize the difficulty of the State government's task."

Ren Fest, an event owned and operated by Mid-American Festivals, draws in over 300,000 attendees annually. It's one of the oldest and largest events of its kind in the United States.

It's also one of the last major summertime events to cancel in light of the 2020 plague. The organization was still hopeful as of late July.

"It is our belief and hope that the amount of people testing positive, the

severity of the cases, and the advancements in treatment will trend in the correct direction in Minnesota and that Governor Walz will issue a new Executive Order resulting in significantly more people being permitted to attend outdoor events in Minnesota," states a Facebook post from last month.

The Fest's Shakopee neighbor Valleyfair officially coronavirus canceled its 2020 season earlier this month; meanwhile Canterbury Park is up and running, as is the Mall of America's amusement park.

While the unwashed masses won't be showing up for the main event, the Renaissance Festival is still promising to host modified Feast of Fantasy evenings, as well as a Halloween-themed Phantom's Feast in October. [@](#)

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ASSOCIATED PRESS

We regret to inform you that we have news about musician, fashion designer, and all around baffling individual Kanye West.

As reported by the Minnesota Reformer, two young men were hanging around on the road to President Donald Trump's Mankato rally a week ago, trying to drum up signatures to get West on the presidential ballot in Minnesota.

"When informed that they were speaking to the Reformer, they scurried away, saying they didn't want their photo taken."

West has spoken briefly about his presidential platform with Forbes, including his belief that "Planned Parenthood's have been placed inside cities by white supremacists to do the Devil's work," and that the burgeoning coronavirus vaccine may be "the mark of the beast."

He also told Forbes he has never voted in his life.

More recently, besides releasing an apparent campaign poster with a logo that reads "KANYE 2020 VISION," the rapper has also shared his vision for a "Christian monitored version" of TikTok. "I WAS WATCHING TIK TOK WITH

VOTE YE? OR NAY?

Even Wisconsin kept Kanye West off its presidential ballot. But not Minnesota.

BY HANNAH JONES

MY DAUGHTER AND AS A CHRISTIAN FATHER I WAS DISTURBED BY A LOT OF THE CONTENT BUT I COMPLETELY LOVED THE TECHNOLOGY," he tweeted. (The all caps are his, of course.) He's also been spotted eating Chick-fil-A with Steve Harvey.

While it's hard to keep track of West's movements and intentions from moment to moment, it does appear as though he's going to wind up on presidential ballots. MPR reports that last week, his "associates" submitted paperwork and signatures to get him on the ballot as an independent in Minnesota. The state requires 2,000 signatures; the ones turned in for West's campaign are currently under review.

MPR reports two women wearing shirts that read "Let the Voters Decide" were getting signatures at the St. Paul Farmers Market this past weekend, though hid-

ing who the signatures were for. Let the Voters Decide is based in California and run by Mark Jacoby, who has done work for the Republican Party of California.

Jacoby also has a rich political history—of voter registration fraud. He pleaded guilty to a misdemeanor in California in 2009 after multiple voters claimed he'd registered them as Republicans without their knowledge. A few years later a stack of registration forms he submitted in Florida were similarly dubious.

The same company has collected signatures for the West campaign in Ohio, West Virginia, and Arkansas, according to the New York Times.

Earlier this month, Lane Ruhland, a lawyer who has worked for the Trump campaign, delivered signatures to the Wisconsin election office on the West campaign's behalf. Chuck Wilton, a

listed convention delegate for Trump in Vermont, is also an elector with West's campaign.

Trump himself has suggested that it "shouldn't be hard" for West to siphon votes from his Democratic opponent, Joe Biden.

"Corrupt Joe has done nothing good for Black people!" he said at a press conference last month.

And—until fairly recently—West has been an ardent Trump supporter himself. He has previously referred to the president as "his brother."

In a statement released just after signatures for West were submitted, DFL Party Chair Ken Martin made it clear the party thinks West is in this race purely as a spoiler.

"Donald Trump doesn't think he can win this election fair and square after his failure to contain COVID-19 brought about mass deaths across America and crashed the economy," Martin said, "so his cronies are trying to get Kanye West on the ballot in a pathetic attempt to pull votes from Joe Biden and steal this election for Trump. The DFL Party is reviewing all available options for defending the integrity of our elections." 

FREE WILL ASTROLOGY

>> By Rob Breznys

♈ ARIES (March 21-April 19): Aries author Kareem Abdul-Jabbar writes, “Some stuff can be fixed, some stuff can’t be. Deciding which is which is part of maturing.” I offer this meditation as your assignment in the coming weeks, Aries. You are in a phase when you’ll be wise to make various corrections and adjustments. But you should keep in mind that you don’t have unlimited time and energy to do so. And that’s OK, because some glitches can’t be repaired and others aren’t fully worthy of your passionate intensity. You really should choose to focus on the few specific acts of mending and healing that will serve you best in the long run.

♉ TAURUS (April 20-May 20): “There are all kinds of love in the world, but never the same love twice,” wrote author F. Scott Fitzgerald. This is true even between the same two people in an intimate alliance with each other. The love that you and your spouse or friend or close relative or collaborator exchanged a month ago isn’t the same as it is now. It can’t be identical, because then it wouldn’t be vibrant, robust love, which needs to ceaselessly transform in order to be vibrant and robust. This is always true, of course, but will be an especially potent meditation for you during the next four weeks.

♊ GEMINI (May 21-June 20): As a professional writer, novelist Thomas Wolfe trained himself to have keen perceptions that enabled him to penetrate below surface appearances. And yet he wrote, “I have to see a thing a thousand times before I see it once.” In other words, it was hard even for him, a highly trained observer, to get a deep and accurate read of what was going on. It required a long time and many attempts—and rarely occurred for him on the first look. Even if you’re not a writer, Gemini, I recommend his approach for you in the coming weeks. You will attune yourself to current cosmic rhythms—and thus be more likely to receive their full help and blessings—if you deepen and refine the way you use your senses.

♋ CANCER (June 21-July 22): It’s sometimes tempting for you to seek stability and safety by remaining just the way you are. When life pushes you to jump in and enjoy its wild ride, you may imagine it’s wise to refrain—to retreat to your sanctuary and cultivate the strength that comes from being staunch and steadfast and solid. Sometimes that approach does indeed work for you. I’m not implying it’s wrong or bad. But in the coming weeks, I think your strategy should be different. The advice I’ll offer you comes from Cancerian author and aviator Anne Morrow Lindbergh: “Only in growth, reform, and change, paradoxically enough, is true security to be found.”

♌ LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): “To be successful, the first thing to do is fall in love with your work,” says author Sister Mary Lauretta. Have you been making progress in accomplishing that goal, Leo? According to my astrological analysis, fate has been offering and will continue to offer you the chance to either find work that you’ll love better than the work you’re doing, or else discover how to feel more love and excitement for your existing work. Why not intensify your efforts to cooperate with fate?

♍ VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): “Self-love is also remembering to let others love you. Come out of hiding.” Poet Irina Yardenah wrote that advice, and now I’m passing it on to you, just in time for a phase when you will benefit from it most. I mean, it’s always good counsel for you to Virgos to heed. But it will be especially crucial in the coming weeks, when you’ll have extra potential to bloom in response to love. And one of the best ways to ensure this extra potential is fulfilled is to make yourself thoroughly available to be appreciated, understood, and cared for.

♎ LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Libran poet Wallace Stevens wrote that if you want to be original, you must “have the courage to be an amateur.” I agree! And that’s an important theme for you right now, since you’re entering a phase when your original ideas will be crucial to your growth. So listen up, Libra: If you want to stimulate your creativity to the max, adopt the fresh-eyed attitude of a rookie or a novice. Forget what you think you know about everything. Make yourself as innocently curious and eager as possible. Your imaginative insights and innovations will flow in abundance to the degree that you free yourself from the obligation to be serious and sober and professional. And keep in mind that Stevens said you need courage to act this way.

♏ SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): “As idiotic as optimism can sometimes seem, it has a weird habit of paying off,” writes author Michael Lewis. According to my analysis, the coming weeks will provide you with ample evidence that proves his hypothesis—on one condition, that is: You will have to cultivate and express a thoughtful kind of optimism. Is that possible? Do you have the audacity to maintain intelligent buoyancy and discerning positivity, even in the face of those who might try to gaslight you into feeling stupid for being buoyant and positive? I think you do.

♐ SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Author Rebecca Solnit writes, “The things we want are transformative, and we don’t know or only think we know what is on the other side of that transformation.” Her statement is especially apropos for you right now. The experiences you’re yearning for will indeed change you significantly if you get them—even though those changes will be different from what your conscious mind thinks they’ll be. But don’t worry. Your higher self—the eternal part of you that knows just what you need—is fully aware of the beneficial transformations that will come your way when you get what you yearn for.

♑ CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): At age 22, future pioneer of science Isaac Newton got his college degree just as the Great Plague peaked in 1665. As a safety precaution, he proceeded to quarantine himself for many months. During that time of being sealed away, he made spectacular discoveries about optics, gravity, and calculus—in dramatic contrast to his years as a student, when his work had been relatively undistinguished. I’m not predicting that your experience of the 2020 pandemic will prove to be as fruitful as those of your fellow Capricorn, Isaac Newton. But of all the signs in the zodiac, I do think your output could be most Newton-like. And the coming weeks will be a good time for you to redouble your efforts to generate redemption amidst the chaos.

♒ AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): The rapper named Viper has released over 1,000 albums. In 2014 alone, he created 347. His most popular work is *You’ll Cowards Don’t Even Smoke Crack*, which has received over three million views on YouTube. According to *The Chicago Reader*, one of Viper’s most appealing features is his “blatant disregard for grammar.” I should also mention that he regards himself as the second Christ, and uses the nickname “Black Jesus.” So what does any of this have to do with you? Well, I’m recommending that you be as prolific, in your own field, as he is in his. I’m also inviting you to experiment with having a fun-loving disregard for grammar and other non-critical rules. And I would love to see you temporarily adopt some of his over-the-top braggadocio.

♓ PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): “If you don’t ask the right question, every answer seems wrong,” says singer-songwriter Ani DiFranco. I suspect you may have experienced a version of that predicament in recent weeks, Pisces. That’s the bad news. The good news is that I expect you will finally formulate the right questions very soon. They will most likely be quite different from the wrong and irrelevant questions you’ve been posing. In fact, the best way to find the revelatory questions will be to renounce and dismiss all the questions you have been asking up until now.

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MUSICAL PARTS
BY BRENDAN EMMETT QUIGLEY

Across

- 1 Software release that’s full of bugs
5 “Drop whatever project you’re working on”
9 Banana-like fruit
14 Free from fat
15 Real dunce
16 Banish from the country
17 Landed after gliding
18 Going both ways
19 Very little change
20 Drop off the kid at day care? (I hear you got an organ that creates bile)
23 Ones who work at the Post office?: Abbr.
24 Strange
25 Canoeing need
26 Kitchen spray
29 Some Sony laptops
31 Basketball announcer with the catchphrase “This is awesome, baby!”
33 Big name in veggie burgers
36 With 42-Across, “Aladdin” production with only the wish granter? (I hear you got a patella)
38 Valuable black stones
40 “Hadt’t thought of it that way”
41 Lubed up
42 See 36-Across
45 Hard to find
46 Person on campus who has all the answers
47 BB-8, e.g.
49 ___ soda
50 Party person

- 52 Animal with a beard
53 “___ Boys” (1886 Alcott sequel)
56 Card game with a bad smell? (I hear you got a finger joint)
59 “I Want to Break Free” band
62 Enter
63 34-Down highlight
64 Someone who might take your car keys at the nightclub
65 Waiting to be used
66 Kind of suit in the ‘40s
67 Instrument with an endpin
68 Jayson Tatum, e.g.
69 Bird that builds nests by the sea

Down

- 1 Cutting edge
2 Caught with a pot
3 Flip decision
4 Against
5 Supplemented
6 Bread popular in San Francisco
7 New York Jets coach Gase
8 Salk studied it
9 Cheese made from ewe’s milk
10 Ruthless boss, often
11 It might be right up your alley
12 PC key
13 Actor Bentley of TV’s “Yellowstone”
21 Intl. news broadcaster
22 “Avatar” race
26 “Mapleworth Murders” star Pell
27 Make a few changes

- 28 Union general at Gettysburg
29 Bona fide
30 One’s place
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Last Week’s Answer

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Tall Order

Is my fantasy attainable?

I'm a cis male in my late twenties, and I've recently become consumed by a specific fantasy I fear is unattainable. A little background: except for a couple dates and makeout

sessions with men, my sex life has been exclusively with women. I've had male crushes and often thought I might be bi or pan, despite never masturbating to thoughts of men or gay porn. In general, I've led a privileged sex life. I've never been broken up with and it's rare for me to experience rejection. But in early 2020, my libido vanished. I stopped masturbating and only orgasmed once

or twice a month when my now ex-girlfriend insisted we have sex. Then a couple of weeks ago I began imagining and masturbating daily to the idea of being one half of a loving gay couple that replaced MM penetrative sex with MMF sex. My sex life with my male partner would revolve around the two of us going out and finding submissive women for kinky threesomes.

However, I've grown concerned that nothing else seems to turn me on. And even minor adjustments to this fantasy ruin the whole thing. To fulfill it I'd need a man who's at least all of the following: 1) Sensitive, giving, easy-going, an all-around good guy; 2) Very physically attractive; 3) Into cuddling and general affection, some makeout sessions, and occasional hand jobs and blow jobs—but absolutely no penetrative sex or anal play; 4) Into picking up submissive women for MMF threesomes; 5) Into penetrative sex with said women; 6) Into using roleplay and D/s to take out our kinks on said women; 7) Into giving me the more dominant role.

Now for my questions: Does anyone like this actually exist? Is there a name for this fetish? Does it have a community? Is it similar to any more accessible fetishes out there? Does my loss of libido and this fantasy say something about me that I'm too close to see?

CAN ANYONE TELL ME ANYTHING NOW

First and most importantly, kinks aren't things you "take out" on other people. They're things you share and enjoy with other people. Perhaps that "take out on" was a slip of the tongue or a little premature dirty talk; lots of people into D/s get off on talking about their kinks as if they're things a sadistic Dom gets off on doing to



Dan Savage

a helpless sub. In reality, the Dom and sub discuss desires in advance and set limits. If it's not consensual and mutually pleasurable, it's not kink play. It's sexual assault.

You did mention a desire to find submissive women, CATMAN, which most likely means you were planning to seek out women who wannabe "used and abused" by two hot bi guys in love. And you're in luck: There are definitely women who would be into this scenario, but you're unlikely to meet those women on a night out. You shouldn't be thinking about casually picking women up, but cultivating connections online or at kink events.

Finding a guy who meets your long list of particulars is a taller order. It doesn't sound like you're looking for a partner, but a guy you can plug into your masturbatory fantasies. Relationships require compromise, no one gets everything they want, and a long list of deal-breakers makes for longer odds. If you can't budge on any of this... well, you might wanna think about getting a sex doll. You also might wanna give some thought to why that list is so rigid that you're unlikely to ever find someone.

You say your libido tanked in early 2020, and studies show you're not alone. The twin pandemics—COVID-19 and stupidity—have tanked a lot of people's libidos. So, if this fantasy is working for you right now, lean into it. I don't like to pathologize people's kinks or attach meaning to what are usually arbitrary, inexplicable interests. But the taller the order, the less likely it can be filled, and it's possible you may not want it filled at all. Sometimes when sex is scary we obsess about fantasies that are impossible to realize or partners who're impossible to find because it allows us to avoid partnered sex.

If this is what you want, there are cities with kink communities large enough for two partnered bi guys to find a steady stream of submissive women who wanna sub for them. But your list of deal-breakers will have to shrink if you hope to find a guy who's close to what you want. And that's all any of us ever gets, CATMAN. Something close.

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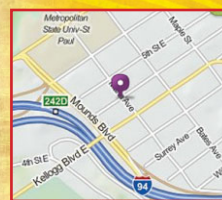


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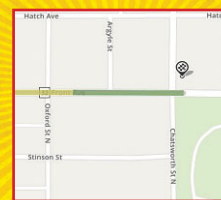
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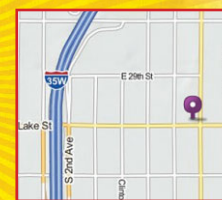
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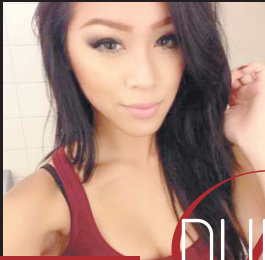
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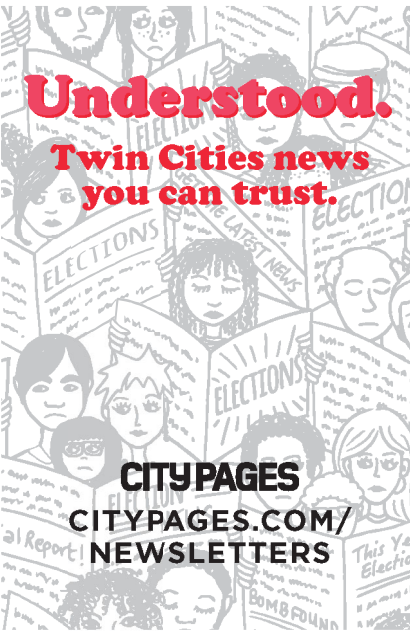
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